

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	DOCKET NO. P-844
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ORDER SHORTENING TIME FOR RESPONSE

(Issued December 4, 2002)

On December 3, 2002, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) filed a "Request For Issuance Of Pipeline Permit" with the Utilities Board. The permit would authorize MidAmerican to begin construction on a natural gas pipeline that will originate at a connection point on Northern Natural Gas Company's interstate pipeline east of Ankeny, Iowa, and terminate at MidAmerican's Pleasant Hill Energy Center and proposed Greater Des Moines Energy Center (GDMEC).

MidAmerican is requesting that the permit issue concurrently with the order of the Board affirming the proposed decision of the presiding officer granting the permit. MidAmerican states that the record in the proceeding demonstrates that it is imperative that the construction of the pipeline begin as soon as possible so that the GDMEC is operational to meet summer peak energy demand in 2003.

Traditionally, the Board has not issued the permit until after the time for filing applications for rehearing, which under Iowa Code § 476.12 is 20 days after the date the final order is issued. However, that statute does not explicitly require the Board to wait the 20 days.

Due process requires the Board to allow for responses to MidAmerican's request. Subrule 199 IAC 7.5(1) allows parties 20 days to respond to pleadings. Because of the importance of timely completion of the project, the Board will shorten the time for responses.

The Board is issuing the order affirming the proposed decision on December 4, 2002, which is prior to the time responses to MidAmerican's request are to be filed. The Board will determine the proper time to issue the permit as soon as possible after any timely responses are received.

Board staff will notify the parties who filed appeals of the shortened response time immediately upon the issuance of this order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

Responses to the "Request for Issuance of Pipeline Permit" filed by MidAmerican Energy Company on December 4, 2002, shall be filed on or before December 9, 2002.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Diane Munns

/s/ Mark O. Lambert

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Executive Secretary

/s/ Elliott Smith

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 4th day of December, 2002.